



**US Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration**

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**Mine Injuries Drop as MSHA Steps Up
Enforcement, Compliance Assistance**

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has jurisdiction over 1,829 coal mines and 11,582 metal and nonmetal mines nationwide. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 requires MSHA to inspect each underground mine at least four times and each surface mine at least twice annually. Compliance assistance has become an integral part of every mine visit. From reviewing a mine's compliance and safety performance prior to an inspection to conducting outreach programs to discuss trends and provide training, MSHA is using all available resources to achieve a vision shared throughout the mining community: to send every miner home at the end of each work day in a safe and healthy condition.

All Mining	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	Percent change, CY 2001-2005
Total Citations and Orders	126,575	105,766	110,038	121,246	128,225	+1%
Total Mining Area Inspection Hours/Mine	53	51	52	54	50	-6%
Mining fatalities	72	69	56	55	57	-21%
Total mining injuries	14,748	13,413	12,050	12,105	12,442	-16%
Number of miners	347,228	329,114	320,149	329,008	344,837	-1%

The U.S. mining industry has reduced fatalities and injuries markedly. Fatalities have declined 21 percent between CY 2001 and CY 2005. Total mining injuries declined by 16 percent in the same period.

The Triangle of Success



Influencing this success is MSHA's use of all the tools provided in the 1977 Act to help create a culture of prevention throughout the mining industry. These tools -- enforcement, education and training, and technical assistance -- are known as the MSHA "Triangle of Success." New avenues for training, the exploration of innovative technologies, and unprecedented Alliance Agreements are creating a network of effective partnerships. Among its new initiatives in CY 2005, MSHA's Small Mines Office

conducted 1504 visits to operators of small mines to establish a safety and health system and performed 829 follow-up visits to help mine operators maintain their safety & health systems.

Rates of mining injuries substantiate safety progress

Rates of injury are recognized as the most reliable index of safety progress. The mining industry achieved substantial reductions in injury rates across the board from CY 2001 to CY 2005.

All Mining	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	Percent change, CY 2001-2005
Incident rates per 200,000 employee-hours						
Lost-time injuries	3.24	3.25	2.96	2.75	2.65	-18%
All injuries	4.75	4.60	4.23	4.05	3.92	-17%

It is important to note that serious violation rates have dropped in parallel with the serious (lost time) injury rates – a sign of true success in reducing hazards that cause both violations and accidents that result in injury.

